

Message Text

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43

ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-07

DODE-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 /036 W

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R 011420Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2870

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10809

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MILI, UR

SUBJ: LAWS GOVERNING FIREARMS IMPORTATION

REF: STATE 177789

1. EMBASSY HAS WRITTEN TO SOVIET MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE TO OBTAIN INFO REQUESTED IN REFTEL. WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED, HOWEVER, IF THIS REQUEST MEETS LONG AND PERHAPS ENDURING SILENCE.

2. TO BEST OF EMBASSY'S INFORMATION, HOWEVER, IMPORT OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION INTO THE SOVIET UNION IS VERY STRICTLY CONTROLLED BY KGB AND ONLY FIREAMRS BROUGHT IN ARE TEMPORARY IMPORTS FOR HUNTING AND SPORT AND OFFICIAL GIFTS. SOVIET SMALL ARMS PRODUCTION SATISFIES NOT ONLY ALL MILITARY REQUIREMENTS, BUT TAKES CARE OF ALMOST ALL NON-MILITARY DEMAND AS WELL.

3. SOVIET CITIZENS CAN OBTAIN SHOTGUNS THROUGH MEMBERSHIP IN HUNTING ASSOCIATIONS, AND IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS WOULD PRECLUDE CONVICTED CRIMINALS FROM ACQUIRING ARMS LEGALLY. IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, HOWEVER, AN UNOFFICIAL AND PROBABLY FLOURISHING PRIVATE MARKET EXISTS AS SHOTGUNS FOR HUNTING ARE PASSED FROM PERSON TO PERSON.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT "AMERICAN RIFLEMAN" CARRIED
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ARTICLE ON SOVIET PRACTICE WITH ARMS AND AMMUNITION

WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY COULD BE OBTAINED FROM NRA.
MATLOCK

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, IMPORT CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW10809
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750266-0661
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750795/aaaadhji.tel
Line Count: 63
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION MC
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 177789
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAWS GOVERNING FIREARMS IMPORTATION
TAGS: MILI, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006